

1908.



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Borough of Havering.

ANNUAL REPORTS

— OF —

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health, and
School Medical Officer,

— AND —

WALTER BEARD, A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector,


FOR THE

Year ending 31st Dec., 1908.

Havering :

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FAVERSHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for Year, 1908.

I beg to submit to the Authority my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Faversham, during the year 1908.

STATISTICS OF BIRTHS & DEATHS.

All calculations must be based upon the estimated population, which is a difficult question to decide, as it is now nearly eight years since a census was taken, and many changes have taken place in the town lately, causing a diminution in the number of workpeople employed, and, therefore, a decrease in population, as numbers have left for more favourable localities. It is desirable not to over estimate the population, or else the calculations are made to appear more favorable than they really are; I have endeavoured to avoid this error but have no actual figures to go upon.

The number of Births registered during the year was 252—males 118, females 134. Of these 16 were in the parish of Preston Within; this gives a birthrate of 20·8 per 1000. In the previous year the number of Births was 255, giving a rate of 21·2. The average number for the last ten years is 291, so that we are rather below that.

The number of deaths actually registered as occurring in the Borough was 106, unprecedentedly low, as in 1907 it was 155, and for the last 10 years is 150 average. This has to undergo correction by adding the deaths in the Union Infirmary, of persons who had been removed from the Borough, 14 in number, and by subtracting those who died in public institutions inside the Borough, who had been admitted from outside, 4 in number, this correction makes a true number of 116, giving a death rate of 9·5 per 1000 of population as estimated. In the previous year the number was 170, with a death rate of 14·1, a decrease last year of 33 per cent. Average for last ten years, 158 deaths with a rate of 13·7 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This, naturally, shows a decrease, not very marked, compared with 1907, but much below the average of the last ten years. Last year there were 21 deaths under the age of one year, giving a rate of 83·3 per 1000 births registered. In 1907 there were 25 deaths, giving a rate of 98·0. For the last ten years the average is 38 deaths with a rate of 131·3. During 1908 there were no infantile deaths due to any of the common infectious diseases. In 1907 two infants died from measles and three from whooping cough; on the other hand, in 1908, there were seven deaths from diarrhœal diseases, in 1907 only two.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

As may be anticipated these show a general decrease all round with a few exceptions. Cancerous diseases remain about the same, the only disease showing an increase is diarrhœa, and that seems, to a very large degree, due to temperature in the late summer season. The milk supply is a very important factor in dealing with this complaint. Only three deaths were registered from infectious disease, viz: one from measles, one from whooping cough, and one from influenza. In 1907 there were 34 deaths from the common infectious diseases, which is a great difference. There were no deaths from scarlet fever, typhoid, or diphtheria, either in the Borough or in the Isolation Hospital at Kennaways.

One death occurred last year from erysipelas and one from cerebro spinal meningitis. The latter case was isolated and after death thorough disinfection carried out. Examination of the cerebro spinal fluid was made and no specific elements discovered; no further cases arose.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS.

During the past year the number of cases of infectious disease notified was 90, almost the same as in 1907, which was 93. Typhoid fever and erysipelas remained about the same, scarlet fever showed a decrease, and diphtheria an increase. All the cases were fortunately of a mild type, and no death resulted, excepting one from erysipelas.

There were 58 cases removed to hospital; in the previous year there were 56.

		Notified,		To Hospital,	
		1908	1907	1908	1907
Diphtheria ...	...	40	18	27	4
Erysipelas ...	...	13	14	0	0
Scarlet Fever		32	54	28	46
Enteric Fever ...	...	5	6	3	6
Puerperal Fever ...	...	0	1	0	0

The cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria were difficult to trace to any special origin, being of a mild nature. There were, doubtless, many cases that were undiscovered, and therefore not notified or isolated, and therefore tended to keep the disease spreading. For some time I ordered the floors of the Public Elementary Schools to be sprayed three times a week with a disinfectant solution, after school hours, and I am convinced that this had some effect in checking the spread of disease. It never became necessary to think of closing any school.

The Hospital at Kennaways has been in full use all the year, with no deaths. The disinfector has proved itself a much needed improvement.

The Small Pox Hospital, at Luddenham, has, fortunately, not been required during the year. It has been found necessary to make a change in Caretaker. It is, at present, all in order, and can be used at short notice, if necessary. The building requires repainting and minor repairs, which it would be economical to do now, rather than to postpone.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Public Water Supply of the Borough is of a very satisfactory nature, both in quantity and quality; it is obtained from deep wells in chalk outside the town. Analysis of it during the year has given results of an eminently good standard. Ten samples have been sent for analysis from private wells, and two of these have been reported as of a suspicious character for drinking purposes. These wells have been thoroughly cleaned out and a great improvement effected in the character of the water.

MILK AND FOOD AND DRUGS, &c.

Several samples of milk have been analysed during the year. One was found not to be up to standard and the vendor was cautioned. All small shops, where milk is sold, have been well inspected, as there is more chance of carelessness there than in big dairies. Milk is often stored in unsuitable places, and too close to other articles of food, and not always covered up and protected as it should be. Constant reminders, however, are making an improvement in this direction.

The dairies and cowsheds have been regularly inspected and the Bye-laws carried out. One cowshed is, at the present time, being altered so as to improve its lighting and ventilation.

The slaughterhouses and bakehouses have also been regularly inspected. The latter have given no trouble, but in the slaughterhouses all are not equally careful in scrupulously carrying out the Bye-laws as to cleanliness and removal of offal &c. No doubt familiarity breeds contempt in the case of men continually at work amongst such scenes, but the Bye-laws are not unduly stringent, and only such as are reasonably requisite for the Public Health.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

These have been inspected and found in good order. The rules as to cleanliness and ventilation and prevention of overcrowding have been enforced. One application for registration of a Lodging-house was refused as the conditions were obviously unfit.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Under this Act inspection of all places coming within its provisions have been carried out as follows :—

Factories	... 46	Written Notices	... 1
Workshops	... 250	Written Notices	... 2

The total number of premises liable to inspection is 137. These comprise dressmakers' and milliners' workrooms, builders, brewers, printing offices, tailors, shoemakers, bakehouses, &c., also two offensive trades, viz : tallow chandler and fellmonger. The number of defects found was 14, all of which have been remedied. One notification was received from H.M. Inspector; the matter was remedied and report sent back upon it.

There is one underground bakehouse which is in good condition. One old bakehouse has been entirely rebuilt and is a great improvement.

OUTWORK.

Fifteen lists of outworkers have been sent in during the year—13 of workers in wearing apparel and two in furniture and upholstery. 22 inspections have been made with satisfactory results. Employers are still very lax in sending in these lists. The supervision of outworkers is a very important point in connection with any possible outbreak of infectious disease.

The name of one outworker was sent to another Council.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN.

This work has been carried on by myself, as School Doctor, under the Education Committee. The provisions of the Act have been thoroughly carried out, every child entering the Public Elementary Schools in the Borough, during the year, has been examined, and also those leaving after August 1st. There is sometimes a little difficulty in getting at those leaving as they may go without any notice, and then it is a difficult matter to get at them, but every endeavour has been made to trace them, and generally with success. I am very glad to report that no parent has refused to co-operate in the work, which is one of great importance to them and the children. Of course, little difficulties arose at first, but they were gradually overcome.

In all 431 children were examined with the following result :—

Serious defects needing medical attendance ...	79
Teeth in bad condition, needing dental treatment	16
Minor defects	177

The majority of parents were present at the examination. All were informed of any defects and recommended to seek advice, in some cases this has been done, in some not. The greatest difficulty seems in getting parents to attend to any disorders of vision in their children by means of spectacles.

A fuller report of this work is presented by me to the Education Committee.

SEWERAGE.

As a result of a claim for damages from the Faversham Oyster Company, the town is compelled to instal a system of sewage disposal, instead of the present system of turning the untreated sewage into the Creek. This will mean not only the construction of sewage works, but also a re-organisation of the drainage of the town, and provision of a pumping station to take up the sewage from the lower levels. Land will have to be acquired for this purpose.

This work is being vigorously taken in hand. During the year no alterations have been made in the town drains.

Complaints have been received as to accumulation of water in the basements of houses in the lower part of West Street. This is not due to any defect in sewers.

GENERAL WORK.

All cases of Infectious Disease notified have been followed by disinfection after the removal to Hospital or recovery. Inspection and removal of nuisances have been regularly carried on. This work is fully noted and detailed in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Inspections by Medical Officer of Health :—

Factories and Workshops	...	...	116
Cowsheds and Milk shops	...	...	25
Slaughterhouses	...	...	12
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	27
			Total
			186

The various table appended give further details.

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.

February, 1909.

BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year ending, December 31st, 1908.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH
OF FAVERSHAM.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg respectfully to lay before you my Third Annual Report of the work carried out in the Health Department during the past year.

SUMMARY OF WORK.

Premises inspected and reinspected	...	2386
House-to-House inspections	...	279
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections		84
Slaughterhouse inspections	...	293
Factory and Workshop inspections	...	296
Outworkers premises inspections	...	22
Complaints received	...	28
Rooms disinfected	...	80
Letters and notices served	...	220
Nuisances abated	...	373

Particulars of the work carried out in Abating Nuisances :

Drains repaired	...	57
New Drains laid	...	11
Drains unstopped or cleansed	...	73
New Water Closet Pans provided...	...	48
Water Closet Pans cleansed	...	45
New Flushing Cisterns provided	...	6
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	11
Defective Roofs, Gutters, &c. repaired	...	16
Offensive accumulations removed	...	18
Dirty premises cleansed	...	22
Nuisances from animals abated	...	11
Overcrowding abated	...	3
Pan Closets abolished	...	3
New Earth Closets provided	...	16
Premises repaired	...	19
Concrete Floors laid	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	23

With one exception the whole of the foregoing work was carried out at the written or verbal request of your Inspector, it only being necessary to serve one statutory notice during the year.

I have invariably found a readiness on the part of both owners and occupiers to carry out the work necessary for the abatement of nuisances

In the House-to-House inspection 279 houses have been visited, and the particulars entered in the register, thus forming a permanent record of the sanitary condition of the premises visited.

Since I took office nearly 1100 houses have been visited in connection with this work. As there is still, however, a large part of the town of which no permanent record exists, the House-to-House inspection should be continued until the sanitary condition of the whole of the houses in the town is recorded in the register.

A joint report by the Medical Officer and myself was presented to the Council upon the condition of certain properties in West Street owing to water gaining access to the basements. In a number of cases the basement floors have been laid in concrete which has been successful in keeping out the water. A joint report was also made on the question of the adoption of Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, in which it was recommended that the same be adopted. The Council have since made application for the adoption of the same.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

During the year the whole of the premises on the register have been inspected, and the register brought up to date.

Number of premises on the register	...	137
Number of inspections made	... ..	318
Number of written notices served	... ..	3
Number of defects remedied	... ..	14

The following are the particulars of the defects :—

Closets to cleanse	... ..	3
Workshops without Closet accommodation		1
Defective Water Closets...	... ..	2
Stopped drains	... ..	2
Workshops to cleanse	... ..	4
Workshops overcrowded	... ..	1
Insufficient ventilation	... ..	1

On notifying the persons responsible, the whole of the defects were remedied. One notice was received from the Factory Inspector calling attention to a Workroom insufficiently ventilated. The same was attended to. One new bakehouse has been constructed during the year, which is a great improvement upon the old bakehouse, which has been abolished. The outworkers premises have been inspected and were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

There are two offensive trades in the district, viz.—One tallow melter and one fellmonger. Both of these were inspected on various occasions and were being conducted satisfactorily.

An application to commence the business of a tripe boiler was received. After receiving a report as to the suitability of the premises the Council decided to grant the application. The business has, however, since been discontinued owing to there being no demand for tripe in the district. Evidently the taste for this commodity requires cultivating here, seeing that it is, if properly cleansed and cooked, a good and wholesome food, easily digested, and fit for the table of the epicure. It is largely consumed in some districts.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, & MILKSHOPS.

Ten persons have been registered during the year, making a total of 29 now on the Register. The whole of the premises have been inspected from time to time, special attention being given to the small general shops where small quantities of milk are sold over the counter. As a rule the vendors are now more careful than formerly to keep the milk well covered, and away from anything liable to contaminate it.

There are now 4 cowsheds on the Register, all of which have been well kept during the year. One cowshed required some improvements to the lighting, ventilation, and floor, part of which has been carried out; the remainder will be carried out during the coming year. The cows in all the sheds have been well looked after.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are now 11 slaughter-houses in the Borough which have been visited from time to time during the year. The following nuisances were found:—

Accumulation of manure and offal	...	7
Defective drains	... ..	1
Stopped drains	... ..	1
Slaughter-house to cleanse	... ..	1

The whole of these were attended to on notifying the person responsible. One person was found to be slaughtering pigs on unregistered premises. Instructions were given to the effect that only registered premises must be used for this purpose. Generally speaking the slaughter-houses have been well kept during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are four registered common lodging houses in the Borough, all of which have been periodically inspected and conducted in a satisfactory manner.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 80 rooms have been disinfected after the recovery or removal to hospital of patients suffering from infectious illness.

The Public Elementary Schools were thoroughly sprayed with a disinfectant at the Easter and Autumn holidays. Owing to the prevalence of infectious illness, towards the end of the year, the Council and District Schools were sprayed every other night.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

As authorised by the Council I purchased 10 samples of new milk and submitted the same to the County Analyst for analysis; nine of these were certified to be good and genuine, one was certified to have a small percentage of added water. The Council decided to caution the vendor.

WATER SUPPLY.

Ten samples of water have been submitted to Mr. Harvey for analysis. Two of the samples were polluted and the rest satisfactory. In the case of the polluted samples it was decided to take further samples. This has been done in one case, after alterations to the well and surroundings, and the water, showing a great improvement, was allowed to pass. In the other case the water will be tested during the coming year. Two samples from the Water Company's supply have been submitted for analysis, the water being reported as organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

In presenting this, my third and last report, I beg to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support, and the Medical Officer of Health for his help and advice in carrying out my duties during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER BEARD, A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

26th January, 1909.

FAVERSHAM EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

Report of School Medical Officer for Year ending 31st December, 1908.

During the past year the provisions of the Act for Medical Inspection of school children have been carefully carried out. Every child entering any of the Public Elementary Schools in the Borough during 1908 has been medically examined, and the results entered in registers and also on the separate cards for each child, which are kept at the schools; also since August 1st last every child on leaving has been examined in the same way, and all particulars noted as required. The latter class of children is a more difficult one to get hold of, as children leave at all periods of the year and very frequently without saying anything of their intention to do so, and if they have started to work, it is not easy to arrange for them to present themselves at the schools for the medical examination.

As was to be expected, on starting work, so new in its aspects as this, certain difficulties arose at the commencement, but I am glad to say they have all been gradually surmounted, and I am having the full co-operation of the teachers and parents. The latter are beginning to realise the advantages to be derived from the system, and I have had no cases of refusal to allow the children to be examined; at the same time a large amount of apathy remains to be overcome; some parents being absolutely indifferent to the recommendations made to them for the improvement of their children's health.

As regards accommodation for carrying on the work, the Council schools are, as they ought to be, very comfortable and convenient. At the District Schools, great difficulty was at first found in providing this; but I am now comfortably settled, the only complaint being that the position is an extremely noisy one: at the Wesleyan Schools, accommodation is good, but the lighting very deficient.

STATISTICS.

	ATTENDANCES.		CHILDREN EXAMINED.	
Council		24		209
District		19		176
Wesleyan		6		46
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	...	49		431
		<hr/>		<hr/>
	DEFECTIVE.	SERIOUSLY DEFECTIVE	MINOR DEFECTS ONLY.	
Council	126	52	74	
District	97	34	63	
Wesleyan	33	9	24	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	... 256	95	161	

DEFECTS CLASSIFIED.

	COUNCIL.	DISTRICT.	WESLEYAN.
Clothing	34	42	16
Cleanliness	23	36	16
Badly nourished	2	2	2
Teeth very bad	9	6	1
Teeth slightly decayed	75	43	9
Eyes—vision	21	15	6
Eyes—minor troubles	12	7	3
Hearing	12	13	5
Speech	12	7	9
Mentally deficient or dull	4	3	2
Tubercular, slightly	8	4	3
Rickets	15	17	5
Deformed	4	3	—
Heart trouble	2	2	1
Lungs	3	3	1
Tonsils enlarged	12	6	2
Tonsils unhealthy	23	23	3
Adenoids	13	11	3
Enlarged glands	6	7	3
Nervous trouble	1	2	—
Colour vision feeble	1	1	—

Of course in many cases children were suffering from more than one defect which makes the list look more formidable than it really is. Out of 431 children examined 95, or 22 per cent were found to be suffering from defects sufficiently serious to require medical advice or treatment: in 161 cases or 37·3 per cent the defects were only very slight ones. The serious defects were chiefly as follows:—badly decayed teeth; defects in vision and hearing; tonsils and adenoids. Many of these cases have, I know, been remedied in consequence of this examination, but many of my recommendations have been entirely ignored by the parents. It is especially difficult to get teeth attended to, and defects in vision corrected, both of which are matters vitally affecting a child's prospect of health and usefulness in life. Until we have some means of enforcing suitable treatment a great deal of the advantage of the inspection will be lost.

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.

16th February, 1909.